The Highlander

Thursday **March 6 2025** | Issue 679

INSIDE: KING CHARLES HONOURS HIGHLANDERS PAGE 7

FREE

GAME FACE...

Luke Hampel follows the play closely as his defensive pairing is up next during the Haliburton County Huskies Feb. 26 game against North York. They open the playoffs March 8 against the St. Michael's Buzzers at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena with puck drop at 4 p.m. See more coverage on pages 16-17. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Scott: tariff response puts PCs back in

By Mike Baker

After securing a seventh term as MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, Laurie Scott told *The Highlander* she believes the Progressive Conservatives, led by Doug Ford, were the best option to lead Ontario through choppy, tariff-infested waters.

With U.S. president Donald Trump implementing 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian imports March 4, Scott said following her Feb. 27 win that the PCs have a plan to hit back.

On Tuesday, Ford ripped up Ontario's $100 million deal with Starlink, an internet provider owned by Elon Musk, and said U.S. companies will be banned from provincial procurements projects as part of his response to the tariffs. He also said Ontario will place a 25 per cent surcharge on electricity flowing from plants this side of the border into the U.S.

"We're in a world we've never experienced before – all I heard on the campaign trail was about Trump, the tariffs and what's going to happen to Ontario and the economy," Scott said. "We will be strong, and we will make the necessary moves to protect Ontario."

Continued **'Scott'** on page 2

Highlander news

Scott win 'foregone conclusion'

Continued from page 1

Scott recieved 51.9 per cent of the riding's vote. Turn out was 49.8 per cent up marginally from 48.14 per cent in 2022, with 51,027 of 104,325 registered electors casting a ballot.

County issues

With basic living costs spiralling, Scott was asked what she would do to make life more affordable for people in Haliburton County.

"The provincial government has given lots of tax cuts to low-income earners and made different increases to things like ODSP… we cut and give back what we can, like the 10 cents per litre in the gas tax," she said.

In 2022, the province temporarily reduced the gas tax rate by 5.7 cents per litre, and the diesel tax rate by 5.3 cents per litre. The move was extended to June 30 of this year last October. Since July 2023, people living on ODSP have had their rates increased 11 per cent.

After touting a major focus on affordable housing following her 2022 election win, Scott claims she followed through on that promise after a Jan. 28 announcement that Minden will receive $2.4 million to bolster the local rental supply.

That build will be headed up by the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation, Scott said, though she offered no timelines for when the money will be paid out, when shovels will hit the ground, or how many affordable units will be created.

With Haliburton Highlands Health Services planning a 98-unit $49 million expansion to Hyland Crest long-term care home in Minden, Scott indicated she is supportive of the proposal.

"I like to see the progression – it would mean more beds. I've been talking with [HHHS CEO] Veronica Nelson, the ministry is involved to look at that whole bigger picture of evolution of LTC in the County… we've been looking at that for a while," Scott said, noting she's also had recent discussions with Extendicare over their future build in the County.

The province announced a $41 million investment with the for-profit care provider in February 2022 for a new 128-bed facility.

"They've chosen to build Peterborough first. They tell me Haliburton is next… I think they want to be assured of staffing. There's a lot of issues they're looking at," she said. "Not exactly a date [for start-up], but very soon. It's still in the future; their plan is to build there."

In January, Extendicare told *The Highlander* it has yet to determine a location for the new facility.

Laurie Scott won a seventh term in HKLB. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Other candidates respond

Liberal candidate Alison Bennie, who recieved 11,688 votes, said she is "the happiest loser in Ontario" after coming in a surprise second-place in HKLB.

> *"I'm the happiest loser in Ontario."*
>
> ***Liberal candidate, Alison Bennie***

"I really am speechless… I said if I got over 1,000 votes that I'd be happy," Bennie said. "One of the reasons I ran was because I didn't want to see the party go downhill to nothing in this riding. I spoke to a lot of people and provided a different choice – I'm not your standard, polished person. I'm more 'let's get together and work this out', bit of an underdog, and I think that resonated with people."

Barbara Doyle, a repeat runner for the NDP after finishing second in 2022, was a distant third, with 6,993 votes. Speaking to *The Highlander* an hour before polls closed, she said she had a good feeling after a month on the campaign trail.

"The day-to-day affordability was really what people were talking about… things felt different than 2022. So many people told me they're voting NDP for the first time ever," Doyle said.

County resident Tom Regina, representing the Greens, took home a lesser split of the vote this time around, down from seven per cent in 2022, but finished in fourth place – ahead of New Blue candidate Jacquie Barker.

Speaking after results were confirmed, he said it was a "forgone conclusion" Scott would reclaim her seat though was surprised by a strong Liberal performance.

In what was his second Ontario election, Regina said he was unsure if he would run again in future.

"I can't look much past tomorrow, let alone three or four years down the road," he said.

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Highlander news

TLDSB sees progress in youth reading

By Mike Baker

After doubling up on efforts to enhance student literacy across Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) in recent years, superintendent Jay MacJanet says the school system is starting to see the fruits of its labour.

During a visit to Haliburton last month for a screening of the documentary *The Truth About Reading*, MacJanet said the board has seen improved statistics for reading and comprehension at the primary level, with students tested in Grades 3 and 6 performing above the provincial average.

For the 2023-24 school year, 76 per cent of Grade 3 students in TLDSB were reading at or above the expected level – five per cent higher than the provincial average, and nine per cent more than in the 2018-19 school year, when the board started beefing up on staff professional development and adapting instructional practices, MacJanet said.

The superintendent noted 81 per cent of Grade 6 students are reading at their age level, on par with the provincial average of 82 per cent, but a five per cent increase board wide from six years ago.

"In the past five years, when you look at our progress we have changed for the better," MacJanet said, noting provincial averages have dropped about three per cent over the same period. "I think the biggest thing we've done is focus on the early interventions in our primary grades, starting in Kindergarten, and giving our teachers more research, more practical applications to help them understand reading strategies they can pass on to kids in the classroom."

The results are even better when narrowing in on the County - for the past three years, Grade 3 reading levels at Archie Stouffer, Cardiff, J.D. Hodgson, Stuart Baker and Wilberforce elementary schools had increased 12 per cent, with Grade 6 statistics improving three per cent.

There have been improvements in writing, too, MacJanet said - up 13 per cent for Grade 3s and five per cent for Grade 6s.

At the secondary level, the number of students passing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test at Hal High has increased 11 per cent.

While instruction took a hit during the virtual learning years, MacJanet said TLDSB continued to send staff for training on new teaching methods and initiatives.

Then, in 2023, the board shifted its focus to "more of a research-based assessment using evidence-based resources" to analyze student performance data. He said this more clearly shows the board what's working and what isn't.

A new literacy advisory panel has been established to guide decision making, with instructional coaches hired for all elementary schools in the system.

"What that means is teachers have someone with specific training working side-by-side with them on strategies that have the biggest impact with kids," MacJanet said.

He feels establishing a high base level in reading is the most important aspect of early-years education.

"If you can give kids a solid foundation and get them to a solid reading level by Grade 3, that sets them up for success," MacJanet said. "If our kids become better readers, it helps them with all levels of instruction whether it be math, science, or any other subject."

Making a difference

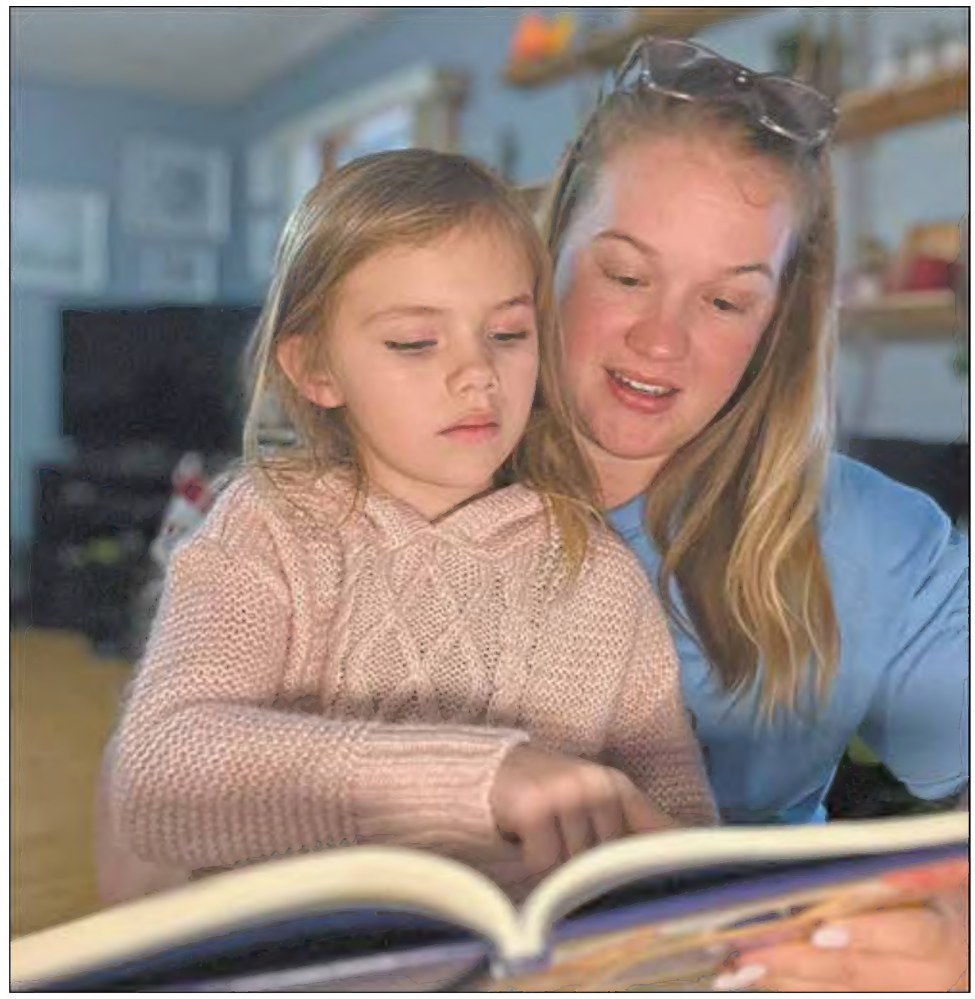
Haliburton mom Tiffany Walt said her seven-year-old daughter Ruby, a Grade 1 student at Stuart Baker (SBES), is thriving under the new system.

"We did stuff before she started school, but in Kindergarten we saw a lot of progress. She was starting to understand the two-letter sounds, when there's a silent 'e' – she learned all those little tools to the point that she's now thriving in Grade 1 and can very fluently read," Walt said.

Ruby is enrolled in French Immersion at SBES, where she does 60 per cent of her work in French and 40 per cent in English. Having no French background herself, Walt said her daughter is now teaching her different aspects of the language, using songs she's learned in school.

Walt runs a home daycare, where she looks after 10 school-aged children from Kindergarten to Grade 4. She said all but one are reading at or above their age level.

"We play a lot of board and card games, things like headband where someone wears a band with a word on it and the other kids have to try and not say that word and have their friend figure it out – they're all doing really well with their reading and talking.



Seven-year-old Ruby Walt reads a book at her kitchen table, while mom, Tiffany, listens. *Photo submitted.*

"Ruby absolutely loves school, no questions asked… what they're doing, at least with Ruby and some of these other kids, seems to be working," Walt said.

To the future

While saying the board is "ahead of where we thought we'd be" moving into 2025, MacJanet said there's still work to be done. This year, TLDSB has expanded its literacy focus group to students from Grades 6 to 8.

"We're branching into junior intermediate for those who continue to have difficulties or different learning styles – it's important we find ways for teachers to support them in various ways in the classroom so that nobody gets left behind.

"We're working with our different curriculums and portfolios, like specialized services and Indigenous studies, to make this reading focus cross-curricular," he said.

MacJanet said the board is also working with parents to access resources and implement methods at home to help with their child's development. "It could be as simple as reading with them before bed."

One area Walt said she'd like to see improved is communication with teachers.

"They send home report cards twice a year… but if we had more in terms of letting us know where our child is at, if they're ahead in their reading, doing OK, or behind – that would be helpful. That would give parents a baseline, something we can use to see how much more work our kids should be putting in when they're not at school," she said.

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Highlander news

Health services heading into the black

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is set to end the 2024-25 fiscal year in a positive financial position, with chief financial officer Ulvi Iskhagi-Bayat projecting a $3.2 million surplus by March 31.

Touting a significant turnaround from the $6.4 million deficit he had forecast last spring, Iskhagi-Bayat noted the positive standing was a result of a recent $9 million one-time provincial grant.

It marks the organization's first balanced budget since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We were able to secure some additional funds… it's still under embargo, so we cannot disclose the details," he told the HHHS board Feb. 27. "It's good news for us. The money helps our position significantly… and we still have another month to work with the ministry, to maybe get some more funding."

Prior to the additional money coming in, Iskhagi-Bayat said HHHS was expecting year-end revenues of $35.7 million and expenses of $41.2 million.

The organization began the fiscal year with a $2.3 million deficit, which CEO Veronica Nelson, at last year's annual general meeting, said she hoped to eliminate within 12 months.

Addressing the board last week, Nelson said HHHS' expenses were up marginally from last year – by just under $700,000. Staff salaries – including sick pay and overtime - saw the biggest increase, jumping from approximately $17.6 million in 2023-24 to just under $19.7 million this year.

She attributed that to successful recruitment, with 142 new staff added since June 2023, as well as new contracts for Ontario Nursing Association and SEIU unionized members, who got a three per cent raise.

Agency staffing costs – largely for nurses, PSWs and physicians through Health Force Ontario – dropped to $2.3 million, an $800,000 reduction from the previous year and down $2.2 million from 2022-23. Nelson previously told *The Highlander* that, as of Dec. 31, 2024 HHHS had significantly reduced its dependence on agency workers, with 1.82 per cent of shifts covered by outside bodies, compared to 11.5 per cent at peak use in June 2023.

Nelson said that shift was a big part of HHHS' turnaround this year.

"That has saved us some significant money… we've also done a lot of advocacy and we're very thankful to Ontario Health, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Long-Term Care in supporting our journey to stabilize and right-size our budget," Nelson said. "Every dollar we get goes towards frontline patient, resident or client care."

She said more information on the $9 million received from the province will be released later this month. The bulk of the surplus will be used to pay-off HHHS' working capital debt, which stands at $6.5 million.

Board chair Irene Odell said she was very happy to see the organization post a surplus for the first time in five years.

"If you look at what was projected and where we ended up, this has been very good fiscal management on behalf of the organization," Odell said.

Above: HHHS is anticipating a $3.2 million surplus by the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year on March 31. Inset: HHHS CEO Veronica Nelson said it's big news. *File.*

Next year's forecast

Iskhagi-Bayat said it's important that HHHS administration continue advocating for increased base funding from the ministries to offset future costs.

Historically, MOH's annual hikes have not kept up with inflation, leaving hospitals in a difficult position. The province has yet to reveal how much additional funding health organizations will receive next year.

Right now, he said HHHS is projecting a $7.7 million deficit for the 2025-26 fiscal year – with increased costs for supplies, utilities, lab work, repairs and maintenance, and staff pay increases ranging from 3.1 to 6.5 per cent.

"We don't know how much extra we'll be getting across the hospital sector or long-term care, it's still in process… it's probably going to be known by mid-May," he said. "This is our starting point… the numbers could significantly change depending on what the base rate increase will be, or if more one-time funding comes in through the year. If anything, things should get better, not worse."

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TOWNSHIP SEEKING MEMBERS FOR THE PROPERTY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Township of Minden Hills is currently seeking resident members to serve on the Property Standards Committee for the 2024-2026 term. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a copy of their resume and cover letter to admin@mindenhills.ca deadline extended to March 14, 2025. For more information regarding the Property Standards Committee visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

March 13 – Regular Council Meeting
March 27 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

MARCH BREAK AT THE ARENA

Come and join the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena in a variety of drop-in ice programs during March Break. For full list of events and pricing please visit mindenhills.ca/recreation.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

The 2nd Annual Archie Stouffer Student Art Exhibit – The Land Between, will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until March 15. Artists from Grades 1 to 8 created over 100 pieces that are included in the exhibition.

Nature's Place will be open daily for March Break Drop-in Programs, March 10 - 14 from 10:00am – 12:00pm. Explore different themes each day through hands-on activities and exhibits! Suitable for ages 5+.

In celebration of International Women's Day, the thought-provoking documentary "Arab Women Say What?!" (2021) will be presented at the Cultural Centre on Thursday, March 6, at 1:00 pm. Admission is free, all ages are welcome. The documentary is provided courtesy of the National Film Board (NFB).

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:

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Temporary Full-Time and Casual Operators in Community Services
Summer Students for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Centre

Visit **www.mindenhills.ca/careers** for more information and how to apply.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: REDEVELOPMENT OF LOCHLIN COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Township of Minden Hills is seeking partners for the re-development of the Community Centre (4713 Gelert Road, Lochlin) and property and is requesting Expressions of Interest (EOI). The redevelopment plan(s) must meet a broad community need and include gathering space to serve the neighbouring and broader communities. To be considered, all replies to or questions about this notice should be submitted by emailing Wendelin Lonergan, Director of Finance, at wlonergan@mindenhills.ca

Deadline for submission: March 24, 2025, by 12:00 noon.

For complete details and proposal requirements, please visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom

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Highlander news

County population growing, getting older

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton County's population could grow anywhere from 0.9 to 1.5 per cent a year by 2051. That, coupled with the fact it's estimated the percentage of people 65 and older will increase to 45 per cent of the population, up from 35 per cent, will present challenges for Highlands' governments.

Consultants, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., on Feb. 26, tabled a long-term population, household, and employment growth forecast for the County and its area municipalities.

The results are intended to guide decision-making and policy for long-term planning to manage growth, municipal finances, and infrastructure, the consultants said. It will also form the basis of a development charges study that is underway.

Jamie Cook told councillors the County has experienced stronger permanent population growth over most of the past decade, largely driven by economic recovery since the global financial crisis of 2008-09.

Between 2020 and 2022, permanent population growth was accelerated by COVID-19, with ultra-low interest rates, and people from the Greater Golden Horseshoe converting seasonal dwellings to permanently-occupied homes. While that trend will continue, Cook said the pace is "expected to slow considerably."

In addition, higher interest rates, and tighter financial conditions, are expected to cool the housing market for the next 12 months, but housing demand is forecast to remain strong over the next decade, with people leaving the city, and a growing regional economy.

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. offered low, high, and medium growth scenarios of 0.9 per cent, 1.3 per cent and 1.5 per cent-a-year. The consultants said low growth is attributable to water and wastewater servicing capacity constraints. They calculated 28,200 people by 2051, up from 21,300 at the 2021 Census. The median scenario sees 31,000 people by 2051 and the high 33,100.

A newer subdivision in Minden Hills. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

The consultants said moderate population growth is expected to create job opportunities for the knowledge-based and creative economy, the service sector, and tourism; to a lesser extent, industrial jobs. There is also the prospect of County-based workers being part of the job market in Kawartha Lakes, Simcoe County, and Muskoka district "providing that suitable housing opportunities are available," the report said.

Cook noted the "very acute" labour shortage in the Highlands presents another challenge.

They added with limited town water and septic, the majority of the housing will be out of town, low density, single detached dwellings. They recommended communities review servicing capacity and come up with some solutions to add to it.

To meet the growth, the County will need just over 2,000 new housing units by 2051 – or 68 new builds a year, with the consultants recommending a variety of housing options.

Not enough services

Over the past 15 years, more than 60 per cent of new residents have been between the ages of 55 and 74.

"This trend continues to place increasing pressures on the aging of the County's population base, which is already represented by a much higher share of seniors relative to the broader provincial average," Cook said.

While projections include some adults between the ages of 20 and 54 moving in, the number of people 65-plus is expected to grow to 45 per cent of the population by 2051, compared to 35 per cent in 2021. Province-wide projections are just 21 per cent.

"The aging of the County's population is anticipated to place increasing demand on the need for seniors' housing, affordable housing, and community and social services throughout this area geared to older adults," Cook said.

In order to attract more age groups, the Watson and Associates report also suggested "resident attraction efforts must be linked to not only housing accommodation, but also infrastructure, community services, urban amenities, and quality of life attributes that appeal to the younger mobile population, while not detracting from the County's attractiveness to older population segments."

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MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Minden landfill stats

Minden Hills' landfills collected electronic materials equaling the weight of 43 bull moose; and 11 black bears' worth of household batteries in 2024.

Manager of waste facilities, Chelsea Cosh, provided council, Feb. 27, with the 2024 waste and recycling overview.

Cosh outlined a number of enhancements and initiatives last year, including: the new alcohol bottle collection program for charities; brush now being accepted at Scotch Line landfill; the reuse centre being open year-round; site improvements; the first annual trash or treat Halloween event; a holiday food and toy drive; and bringing waste management attendant services in-house.

She said 662 people went to household hazardous waste days, with a total of nearly 20 tonnes collected.

As for recycling and diversion, the landfills collected 94 auto batteries in 2024, up from 59 in 2023. Nearly 90,000 alcohol containers were dropped off. Blue box material was down to 686.80 tonnes, from 719.44 tonnes in 2023. Under the new brush policy, 110 cubic yards came in. Construction and bulky waste was also down, 1057.8 tonnes, from 1,442.24 the year before. Electronics collection was slightly up, to 24 tonnes, in 2024, from just over 21 tonnes in 2023. Empty automotive containers were down to .74 tonnes, from 2.28. Some 1.15 tonnes of household batteries were collected, down from 1.4 tonnes. The new lighting material category garnered 1,701 units. Nearly 650 mattresses came in under a new program. A full, 67 propane tanks came in, compared to .45 tonnes in 2023. The reuse centre collected six, 40-yard bins, up from four, 40-yard bins in 2023. Scrap metal was down to 123.69 tonnes, versus 231.64 in 2023. Textile collection rose to 21.43 tonnes, from 19.53 tonnes in 2023 and tires amounted to 25.70 tonnes in 2024, from 39.49 tonnes the year prior.

Not surprisingly, Scotch Line was the busiest landfill, with 71,852 vehicles in 2024, down from 79,713 in 2023. Ingoldsby saw 15,204 cars, Little Gull transfer station 7,677 and Iron Mine transfer station 3,116.

The Scotch Line landfill in winter. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Cosh said, "staff continue to look for innovative and cost-effective ways to offer existing recycling programs to residents, as well as opportunities for new programs. These efforts, along with positive recycling habits from residents, help reduce the amount of waste that is going into the landfill. This in turn extends the life of the landfill and reduces the township's carbon footprint."

As of the end of 2023, the Scotch Line landfill has a remaining lifespan of approximately 12 years.

Water and wastewater infrastructure

Minden Hills approved recommending director of finance/treasurer, Wendelin Lonergan, for a Local Authority Services (LAS) municipal staff committee – water and wastewater utility business case development.

CAO Cynthia Fletcher said the LAS, an arm of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), is looking to develop a business case for potentially creating a joint municipal services corporation for water and wastewater infrastructure.

She said LAS had asked all interested municipalities to identify a staff person to sit on the working group by March 31, 2025.

Fletcher said, "the LAS board has studied the feasibility of offering a municipal utility model for water and wastewater in Ontario. An expert panel of municipal finance, economics, policy, legal and operations experts conducted the feasibility study."

(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, left, receives her King Charles III Coronation Medal from MP Jamie Schmale. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

King Charles comes to Haliburton County

By Lisa Gervais

Six Haliburton County residents were awarded King Charles III Coronation Medals March. 4.

MP Jamie Schmale handed out the honours to Ken Mott and Brenda Boomhouer in Highlands East, and Rev. Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, Dick Schell, Lynda Litwin and Fay Martin in Minden.

Schmale said, "there are a large number of people doing some amazing things in our community; volunteer work that goes unrecognized, but all of it together makes our community a better place."

> *"We'd like to nominate many more but we only have so many medals."*
>
> ***MP Jamie Schmale***

The day began for Schmale and his assistant, Andrew Hodson, at the Wilberforce Legion.

Nominator Tina Jackson, who is executive director of the Central Food Network (CFN), said Mott started out as the volunteer manager of the then Wilberforce Food Bank. He got municipal support, and Ontario Trillium Foundation funding, to create the Highlands East Food Hub and CFN. He co-founded Heat Bank Haliburton County. It's believed he volunteers 30 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, drives 25,000 kilometres, and manages a team of 22 volunteers at the food hub. He also picks up, splits and delivers firewood.

Mott said he was a recipient of community help years ago and that brought him to the food bank work.

"I totally wasn't expecting it. I didn't know exactly what it even was until Tuesday", he said of the medal.

Boomhouer established a Vet-to-Vet fishing program. She said her award was also a, "total surprise and an extreme honour. I couldn't have done it alone. Our volunteers are very important to the success. The Vet-to-Vet participants call it a family. They come in as strangers and go home with a family."

St. Paul's Anglican Church was the venue for Cavanaugh-Clark's medal ceremony. Nominator Deacon Martha Waind said Cavanaugh-Clark doesn't just lead a congregation, but oversees a thrift shop, with proceeds going towards operating the church. Money is also donated to local charities, and to the Bishop McAllister Anglican Church School in Africa, an orphanage for kids who have lost their parents to AIDS.

Waind also talked about her colleague's community outreach, saying she has a unique ability to see a problem and find a solution."

Cavanaugh-Clark said, "today I get this medal because all of you support me and the ideas I have."

Making Haliburton Highlands special

Marilynne Lesperance nominated Schell. She said he served with the OPP auxiliary from 1967 to 2013, and remains an OPP guard. He's been involved in youth justice, the food bank, Minden Rotary, the Kinsmen Club, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, St. Paul's Anglican Church, the Legion, The Masonic Lodge, been a volunteer fireman and ambulance attendant, a housing advocate, and sat on municipal committees. "Do you think he deserves this?"

Schell thanked Lesperance and Diane Peacock for nominating him, and his wife and family, "because every time I was out volunteering, she was home looking after the fort. Thank you to all those people that supported me when I was volunteering."

Andy Campbell nominated Litwin for her volunteer work in Minden for the past 20 years. She's been a Rotary president twice, spearheaded events such as Canada Day and Rotaryfest, golf tournaments, helped out at municipal events, and on municipal committees. "She volunteers for everything, contributes to everything, participates in everything, and never seems to get tired," Campbell said.

An emotional Litwin said it was an "unbelievable honour." She thanked her friends and Rotary family for attending.

Susan Tromanhauser nominated Martin. She said Martin had worked as a community organizer since the 1960s. She's done social work across the country. Through her business, she helped grassroots organizations push for change. She was founding executive director of today's Point in Time Centre for Children. In 2007, Martin created Places for People. She's also been on the board of Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation; founded the Minden Hills housing task force; and is a director for Habitat for Humanity Peterborough and Kawartha Region. She has also been heavily involved in the arts over the years.

A surprised Martin said she arrived in the community in 1997, and has lived here longer than anywhere as an adult. "This is really a wonderful community to live in." She also felt it was a great community to do research, "because you can have an idea and go stand in the grocery store and find five people that think that's a good idea and make it happen."

Schmale said, "we'd like to nominate many more but we only have so many medals. Pretty much everyone I see in this room (the Minden Legion) has volunteered in some capacity, did something amazing, and each and every one is a piece to the puzzle that makes Haliburton Highlands so special."

Kinmount's Keith Stata has also been awarded a medal, and others are expected to be given to County residents soon.

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Honouring changemakers

By Lisa Gervais

So, six County residents have received a King Charles III Coronation Medal - with more to come.

Ken Mott, Brenda Boomhouer, Fay Martin, Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, Dick Schell, and Lynda Litwin were all honoured on Tuesday of this week.

Is it a big deal? Yes, it is.

The medal commemorates the Coronation of King Charles III as King of Canada, and is administered by the Chancellery of Honours at Rideau Hall. To get one, you have to have made a significant contribution to Canada, or to a particular province, territory, region, or community, or done something great overseas on behalf of our nation.

Some 30,000 medals were up for grabs, with 4,000 going to Canadian Armed Forces personnel. MP Jamie Schmale said there are more than 40 million Canadians. Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock is home to 122,401 of them. There were more than 100 applications for medals and the riding is giving out 30.

Mott, Boomhouer, Martin, Cavanaugh-Clark, Schell and Litwin got 32 mm, silver, circular medals designed by Cathy Bursey-Sabourin, Fraser Herald at the Canadian Heraldic Authority at the Chancellery of Honours, Rideau Hall.

The medal is struck in nickel-silver and lacquered to prevent tarnishing. It is manufactured by the Royal Canadian Mint.

The medal program was first announced three days before the Coronation, on May, 3, 2023, by the prime minister. The design of the medal and the details of the program were announced by Rideau Hall on May 6, 2024, the first anniversary of the Coronation. The inaugural ceremony took place that day.

We don't know how many Highlanders were nominated for this particular honour. But we do know the winners are deserving.

Let's take Ken, for example. He started out as the volunteer manager of the then Wilberforce Food Bank. He got Highlands East backing and Ontario Trillium Foundation funding to create the Highlands East Food Hub and Central Food Network. He co-founded Heat Bank Haliburton County. It's believed he volunteers 30 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, drives 25,000 kilometres, and manages a team of 22 volunteers at the food hub. He picks up, splits and delivers firewood.

Fay has worked as a community organizer since the 1960's. She's done social work across the country. Through her business, she helped grassroots organizations push for change. She was founding executive director of today's Point in Time Centre for Children. In 2007, Fay created Places for People. She's also been on the board of Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation; founded the Minden Hills housing task force; and is a director for Habitat for Humanity. And we haven't even talked about her involvement in the arts over the years.

Rev. Joan doesn't just lead a congregation. She helps oversee a thrift shop, with proceeds going towards operating the church. They also donate money to local charity. Every year, they give to the Bishop McAllister Anglican Church School in Africa, an orphanage for kids who have lost their parents to AIDS.

She has a unique ability to see a problem and find a solution. She's great in a crisis, helping people experiencing physical or mental abuse, not having food or housing, addiction issues, or being suicidal. She and her helpers have bought gas cards for people, driven patients to appointments and the pharmacy for medicine, helped people out of financial jams and made important connections.

Dick and Lynda could be Mr. and Mrs. Minden. Schell has been a staple in the community for years and his resume of public service unparalleled. Litwin is on a fast track to the same kind of community service.

Brenda has brightened many lives in the County, bringing people together through a Vet-to-Vet fishing program that inspires camaraderie and companionship.

No doubt about it - they are all changemakers in our County and very deserving of the medals they now have around their necks. We are a better place because of them.

LETTERS

Little hospital a gem

Dear editor,

I was recently a patient at the Haliburton Hospital and would like to share my experience.

As a proud resident of Haliburton, and a lifetime resident of Ontario, I know that our healthcare system is imperfect. We have all either heard of or personally experienced frustrating and sometimes dangerous wait times for health services.

Shortly following the large snowstorm, I needed emergency health care. I'd like to start by thanking the three EMS workers and two fire crew that found my road impassable but trudged through the snow in the middle of the night to transport me to the hospital. They were all very kind, knowledgeable and reassuring on the ride.

We all hear of healthcare professionals that are overwhelmed, exhausted, and defeated by the huge weight of their responsibilities. We hear of long waits in ER rooms and people recovering from surgeries in the hallways of loud, overcrowded hospitals. As patients, this can make us very anxious when we require care. Fortunately, none of that reflected my recent experience.

I ended up spending three nights at the Haliburton Hospital where the staff were exceptional. From the nurse who triaged me and comforted me in the ER, to the knowledgeable ER doctor, and later to the entire staff once I was admitted, every single person I met treated me with competence, kindness and a desire to make my healing as painless as possible. Special shoutouts to Michelle who kept my room and others spotless and disinfected while enjoying a friendly chat with the patients and to resident Belcourt for her care, advice and for coordinating my aftercare.

It is important to continue the discussions and advocate for the best healthcare system possible for everyone in our community. I think that it is equally important to pause for a moment though and acknowledge and thank all of the healthcare professionals in our area that work tirelessly to make our little hospital such a gem.

Yolanda Herald
Dysart et al

Credit where it's due in Dysart

Dear editor,

I was a frequent contributor to the STR bylaw debate prior to its implementation and have since engaged in the licensing process.

Before passing the bylaw, Dysart council made several positive changes to the original draft and committed to reevaluating it over time.

At the Feb. 25 meeting, council followed through on that promise, implementing a reasonable plan to allow for conditional licences for structures within the water setback while amendments to the zoning bylaw are considered.

Dysart council and staff should be commended for their commitment to making this important bylaw work effectively.

Bryan Stewart
Dysart et al

Tariff decisions

Dear editor,

On Tariff Tuesday, Donald tRump (*my preferred spelling*) faces a dilemma of his own making.

He has four choices. Namely, to continue with his absurd 25 per cent tariff on Canada and Mexico; delay the tariffs for another month or so; cancel the tariffs altogether; or change the percentage to 10.

The best alternative for all concerned (except his reputation) is to cancel them. He loses face with the cancellation or delay. The worst and craziest is to continue with the 25 per cent and send all three countries into economic turmoil. So, which will he chose?

My bet is that he chooses the 10 per cent option. To go ahead with the 25 per cent option will prove that he has lost his mind, which is kind of silly because it implies that he had a mind to lose in the first place.

Dennis Choptiany
Koshlong Lake

Editors note: Trump enacted 25 per cent tariffs on most Canadian imports effective March 4.'

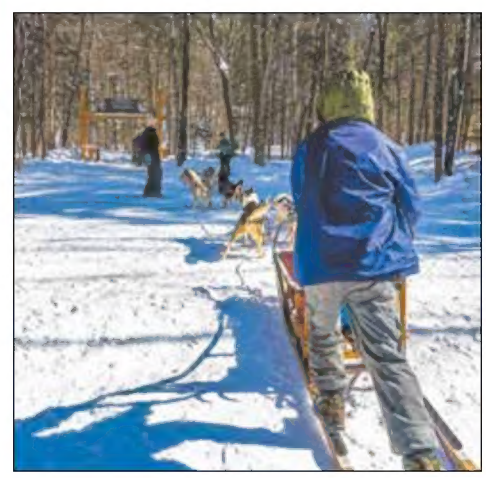
Correction: In the story 'HHHS reps off to the Netherlands to study LTC models' we incorrectly identified David Blodgett as the HHHS board chair participating in the trip. Blodgett is the HHHS Foundation board chair. Irene Odell will be participating in the trip. We apologize for this error.

Highlander events

Above: MPP Laurie Scott and the McCready-Debruin family. Far right: Jessica McCready-Debruin sets off on a run with a team of dogs. Inset: Two happy pups smiling in the sunshine. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Mushing for a quarter century

On Sunday, March 2, Winterdance Dogsled Tours celebrated its 25th anniversary. The McCready-Debruin clan was on hand with new and former staff and friends to join in on the occasion. Recently returned MPP Laurie Scott came by to show her support for the longevity of the business and what it has brought to the community. After a couple of laps on the sleds, everyone went inside to the cabin where Tanya McCready-Debruin gave a speech, thanking everyone for coming and supporting the tours. *(Justin Belanger)*



Hitting the ice one last time

This past weekend, March 1-2, the Canadian Automobile Sports Clubs (CASC) held its final races of the season in near perfect conditions, with breaks of sunshine, at the Minden fairgrounds. The drivers were geared up and ready to attack the track for the last time of what has been an epic winter season thanks to CASC and Minden Kinsmen volunteers. *(Justin Belanger).*

Above left: Dustin Brown #167 stays in front of fellow racer Oleh Koursa #68. Above right: James Rogers #148, Jeff Carrell #73, and Nazra Koursa #89 drifting in unison. Right: And, they're off! *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Highlander business

Bellissimo ... Italy comes to Haliburton

By Lisa Gervais

The view from Juna Restaurant – opening March 7 in Haliburton - is decidedly different from the one at Rhubarb in Carnarvon.

"It's exciting looking out the windows and seeing people, because you don't see that in Carnarvon, so that's a big difference," co-owner Terri Mathews-Carl, says.

She's seated in her and partner, Christoph's, new Italian restaurant at 210 Highland St., in the former Cindy's clothing store. She's surrounded by an ACM-designed space that can accommodate 32 diners. In the summer, they'll have a patio out back that will seat approximately 30 more people.

Mathews-Carl said it is nice having people walk by, and pop in. While Rhubarb has a view of Mirror Lake, its front entrance faces a parking lot and Hwy. 118.

Mathews-Carl and Christoph Carl still own and operate Rhubarb although it is up for sale.

"In a perfect world, Rhubarb will sell one day and we'll just have this one … the retirement restaurant. That is the goal, eventually. We wouldn't sell Rhubarb unless it was to the right people and the right fit for the community and for the staff we have, because they're great and we want to make sure they are taken care of," the restauranteur said.

Having an existing established restaurant, with staff, while opening a new one has "not been as challenging as what you would think," Mathews-Carl said.

She adds it's a coming home for Christoph.

"He and his family have had a restaurant in Haliburton village forever; coming back to have that in-town experience is pretty nice. So many of our customers travel to Carnarvon, who live closer to here, who would like having the option of not going so far, especially when the weather is not the greatest."

The family had the Old Country House, where the Maple Avenue Tap and Grill is.

"Chris grew up upstairs. It was a fine dining restaurant that they had for 25 years right in the village. They were the first restaurant to introduce cappuccino and VQA wines. After that, Chris opened Rhubarb, which has been around for 15 years. He's been cooking in Haliburton for 40 years."

Comfortable date night spot

As for the type of restaurant, Mathews-Carl said, "we like Italian food, and we didn't want to be in direct competition with all of the other restaurants in town because they all have their specialties and we wanted to complement what's already here."

As for what will be served, "we're in a small space. It's a limited menu." They will feature homemade pasta and pizza dishes as mains.

"The nice thing about having a small restaurant is on a not-so-busy night, you still have a great vibe. In a bigger restaurant, like Rhubarb, if you have 70 seats and you have 10 people, it feels empty. If you have 32 seats and you have 10 people it still creates an atmosphere."

Terri Mathews-Carl and Christoph Carl - far right - with staff from Juna and Rhubarb at Haliburton's new downtown Italian restaurant. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

ACM Designs has done the interior. "We showed them the space and they ran with it, so they decided how the layout would be, which was great. We were involved in the finishes and things like that and we had a contractor who did the actual work."

Mathews-Carl describes the end result as, "an upscale but also comfortable date night spot. We have plans to be open later, because there aren't a lot of places open later in town. We are taking reservations at 8.30 p.m. and we won't be closed before 10 p.m."

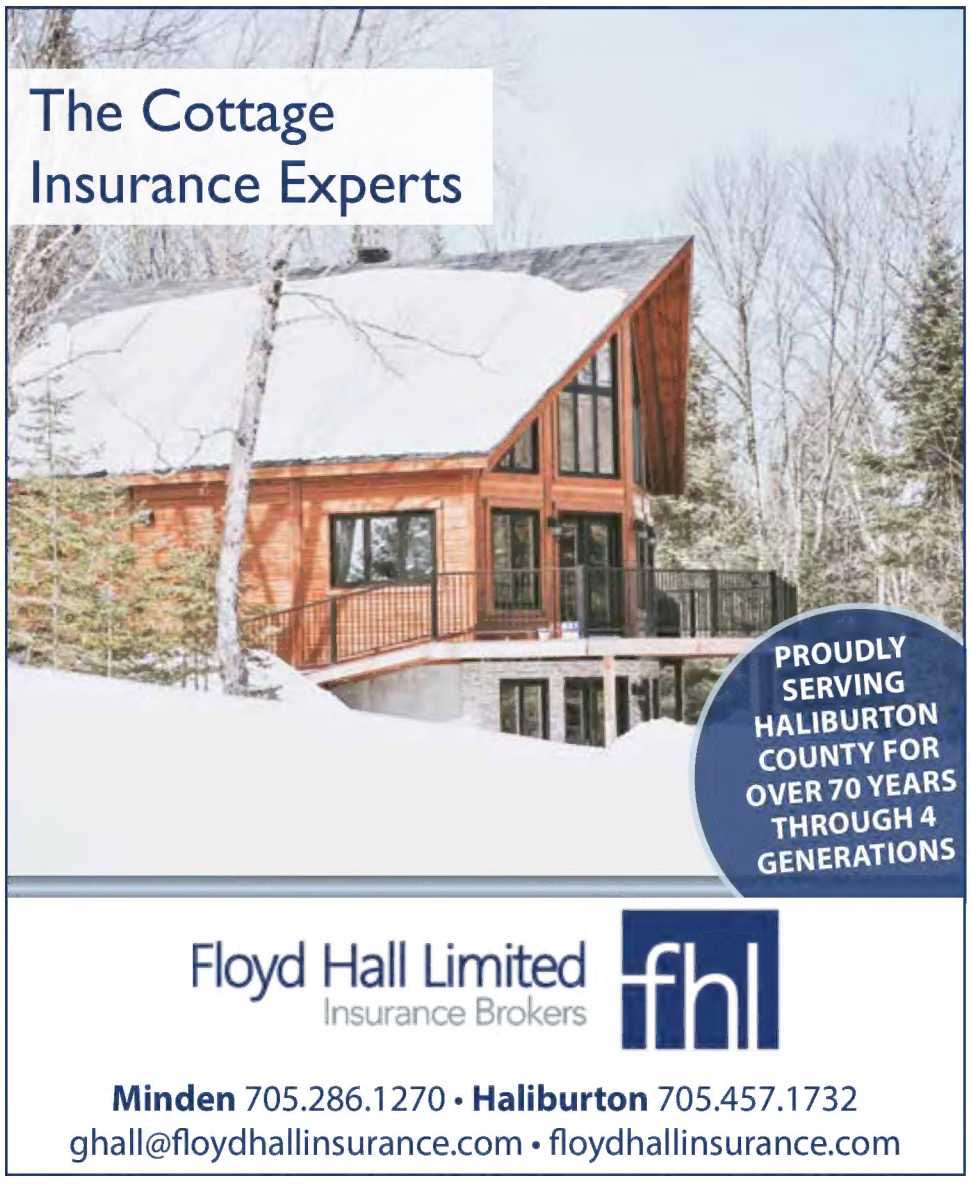
Christoph will be the executive chef at both and staff will move back and forth between Carnarvon and Haliburton. "Everybody will pitch in where needed."

Readying for opening day tomorrow, it's been a flourish of activity. There was a friends and family night on March 4. Cooks have been tweaking the menu and there has been finishing work on the space. There's been trips to Toronto for supplies.

"We have lots of things to do, and will be working right up to the last minute," Mathews-Carl said.

The opening weekend is already sold out and people are urged to make reservations going forward.

"We're just really excited to be back in the village."



Highlander arts

Rose blossomed new dreams in County

By Mike Baker

Jenna Rose had her whole life mapped out when enrolling at the Haliburton School of Art + Design (HSAD) in spring 2016, though her experiences at the Highlands' creative hub inspired her to change her tune.

The 32-year-old released her seventh single *There You Were* Feb. 20 on YouTube, Spotify and Apple Music. With a country-pop feel, Rose said the song is a story about breaking free from the chains of heartache to pave a new path forward.

"A lot of my songs have been based on this feeling of me not being able to get over an ex from a couple of years ago, but with this, I just felt tired and got to a place where I realized that thinking has got to go," Rose said. "So, this is a little bit faster, more upbeat… about how I'm ready for a new story to happen."

She penned the lyrics in mid-January after stumbling across a pre-recorded music sample from a Nashville-based producer. That tends to be her style, taking different sounds she's heard and forming them into melodies in her mind.

Rose remembers doing just that on an almost daily basis nine years ago when she travelled from the Lake Kashagawigamog cabin she was staying at to HSAD. After graduating from Fleming College's addictions and mental health counsellor program, she signed up for the expressive arts therapy course in Haliburton. She envisioned a career helping people move past traumatic moments of their lives.

"My time in Haliburton was really pivotal for me, because I realized I didn't have to do things in a conventional way… I've always been an artist, painting when I was younger, but I learned there were other avenues I could pursue to make a difference," Rose said.

While only in the community for a few months, Rose said she made connections that remain strong to this day. She lived with a local family she still keeps in touch with, reminisces about mornings spent clutching a cup of coffee at Kosy Korner, and hazily recalls a few late nights getting to know the crowd at McKecks.

After growing up in a small town in Huron County, Haliburton always reminded her of home, she said.

Upon graduating, she moved to the city and got involved in acting. In 2022, she wrote a poetry book *Crashing Waves, Meditations to Set Yourself Free*. Dealing with depression through much of the COVID-19 pandemic, she took what she learned from her studies at HSAD to express her emotions with her words.

"After that, songwriting felt like the next natural step," Rose said.

Above: HSAD graduate Jenna Rose, second from left, in front of the 'Big Red Doors'. Inset: HSAD graduate and aspiring musician Jenna Rose released her seventh single *There You Were* on various platforms Feb. 20. *Photos Submitted.*

She's already working on other material and is planning a trip to Nashville, hoping to build on her connections and improve her sound.

Having worked with producer John Kennedy on her latest single – he's known for his collaborations with LeAnn Rimes, Faith Hill, Julianne Hough, and Billy Ray Cyrus – Rose already has experience dealing with a star of the industry. For now, she's not putting much pressure on trying to "make it", instead allowing herself to fully enjoy the ride.

"I'm still in the building phase, learning a lot about myself and my voice. This song marked the beginning of a new chapter… I want to get out and do some more live performing. I'd love to get up to Haliburton even to do that if I can, that would be awesome," Rose said.

Junior Highlanders

The kids are alright

Filled to the brim with submissions from young artists in Minden, Agnes Jamieson Gallery hosted its award reception for the second annual Archie Stouffer Elementary School art exhibit Feb. 22. Six individuals and one class received honours. With the theme 'The Land Between', students were challenged to come up with pieces that reflected their thoughts on the Highlands' natural surroundings, said gallery manager Shannon Kelly. The exhibit, which debuted Feb. 13 and runs to March 15, features approximately 150 pieces – up from around 30 last year. "The kids and the teachers all really bought in – the judges had a hard time deciding what to showcase, so we decided to put everything up," Kelly said.

Winners:

Best overall Kindergarten-Grade 1: Harper Roberts

Best overall Grade 2-3: Kennedy Draker

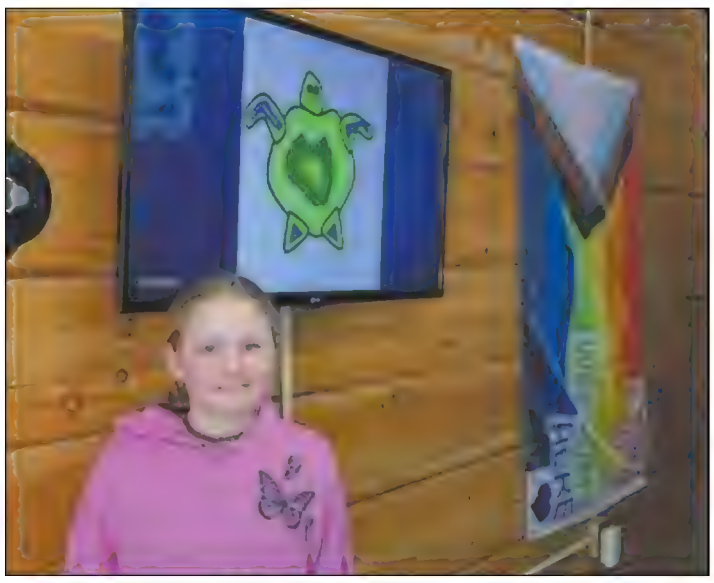
Best overall Grade 4-5: Danielle Chambers

Best overall Grade 6-8: Kylie Simms

Best overall group submission: Ms. McCracken's Grade 6-7 class for *Together We Must Lend a Hand*.

Best overall reflection of theme submission: Eliana Kegel for *The World is in your Hands.*

Best overall submission: Evelyn Gray.



Top left: Kylie Simms took home the best overall piece for Grade 6-8 with her acrylic painting *Lightning Strike*. Top right: Kennedy Draker won best overall for Grade 2-3 for her collage painting. Middle: The ASES student exhibit showcases local student creativity. *Photo by Justin Belanger.* Above left: Danielle Chambers won best overall for Grade 4-5 for her digital art submission. Above right: Evelyn Gray, in Grade 3, won best overall submission for her multi-coloured clay waterwall. She said, "The Land Between is an important area to me because it is beautiful." *Photos submitted.*

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Highlander community

Sleeping in cars with lived experience

By Lisa Gervais

Kim Switzer will be sleeping in her vehicle the night of March 21 – to raise money for, and awareness of, Places for People (P4P), and to express gratitude to the charity that has housed her for the past number of years.

Switzer said she had been temporarily living at the YWCA shelter when she started applying for supported housing.

She got a call from P4P to tell her a duplex it owned in Carnarvon would be coming available, but it would take some time as renters had not yet left and they needed to fix-up the place.

Switzer said she asked what she could do to help.

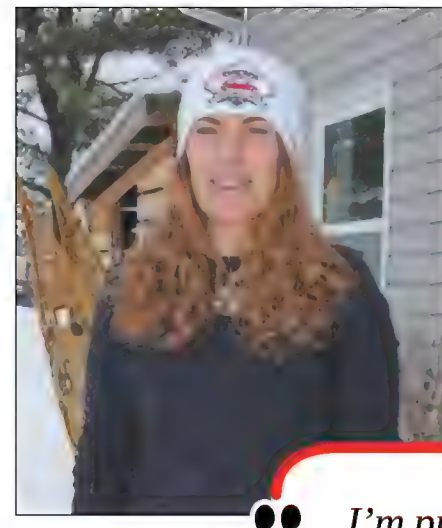
"The faster I could get in, the better for me." At the time, she was a single mother raising three children in a shelter and was eager to find a place to land.

She called on friends to help her clean up and paint the house. She continues to give back via renovations.

"I'm pretty lucky to have this place. And I feel blessed to have it. I don't know where I would be without it," she says.

Switzer acknowledges the not-for-profit has a number of places to look after. She said in addition to taking part in the fundraiser, she can simply be a good tenant, and is passionate about combating stigma around renters.

"Thinking we're just a bunch of deadbeats, using and abusing the system. That wasn't my life before. That's not my life now. And that's not who I want to be. For not-pleasant circumstances, I needed to get out of the environment I was in, and I had to walk away with almost nothing. I didn't know where I was going to be, but I landed where I landed."



Carnarvon's Kim Switzer is taking part in the Sleeping for Cars fundraiser March 21. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

> *"I'm pretty lucky to have this place. And I feel blessed to have it.*
> ***Kim Switzer***

Having subsidized rent allowed her to go to Fleming College and do wilderness and outdoor courses. She started her own business.

Switzer said she never intended to stay as long as she has, but there have been other challenges, such as COVID 19, which squelched the business and she had to be home with her three children.

She said while it can be challenging to live in Haliburton County, it's easier, "when you can afford the house you live in … when you have the security of a house, that makes a huge difference."

She has set a target of raising $4,000 and had already surpassed $2,000 as of March 3. Plus, the Mill Pond Restaurant is donating $1 of every coffee sold in March to the cause.

"I'm okay to share my story. It's not been an easy road, sometimes you just get really kicked down and things don't go as planned, but there are resources out there that you can rely on, and there's a lot of help when you ask for it." Switzer said.

Since 2010, P4P has housed over 100 people; 32 families, consisting of 47 adults and 56 children. Of their previous tenants, seven of the families have moved on to home ownership. The non-profit currently own and manage 20 units across Haliburton County, with units in each of the four townships. They are planning a new, multi-unit build of one and two-bedroom units.

Places for People is hosting Sleeping in Cars on Friday, March 21 at Head Lake Park starting at 6 p.m. to raise funds and awareness. People can pledge to sleep in their vehicles for one night and collect donations to support their efforts. They can collect pledges in-person with a pledge sheet or start an online campaign. They can also put together a team. People who don't want to sleep out, can support a sleeper. Go to placesforpeople.ca.

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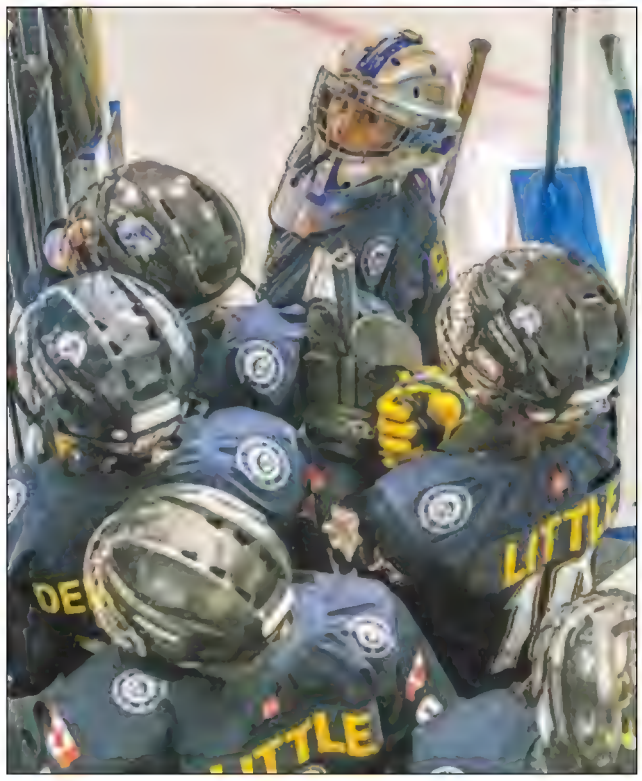

Left: Goalie Liam Scheffee about to lead his team onto the ice. Right: #44 Kora Reid and #88 Reed Brown celebrating after a goal. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Curry Chevrolet defeat Casey's 9-3

The Highland Storm Curry Chevrolet U13LL team took over first place in Pool B with a huge 9-3 win Feb. 28.

They faced off against Casey's Water Well & Geothermal U13LL squad at the A.J. LaRue Arena.

The Curry Chevrolet team came out of the gate with great pressure. They scored four times in the first period, with tallies by Jaxon Demerchant, Brayden Collins, Reed Brown and Jackson Sperrino. Goaltender, Liam Scheffee, stopped every shot on him to give his team a 4-0 lead going into the second period.

Casey's Water Well & Geothermal were able to beat Scheffee only twice after great pressure. Curry Chevrolet, however, did not let up and scored three more times, from Kora Reid, Demerchant, and Sperrino.

The third period was a continuation of the first two periods by Curry Chevrolet. Casey's Water Well & Geothermal was able to get one quick goal, but Curry Chevrolet answered back with two more goals, by Sperrino and Brown.

Every player on the Curry Chevrolet team played their best and showed how a team effort can be so successful. *(Submitted)*

SCORE BOARD

Feb. 25
- U13 Casey's Water Well & Geothermal vs Brock 5-1 W
- U15 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Millbrook 5-2 L
- U18 Tom Prentice & Sons vs Millbrook 4-3 L

Feb. 27
- U13 Curry Chevrolet vs Brock 4-1 L
- U11 Rep Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Millbrook 5-4 W
- U15 The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs Brock 4-2 W

Feb. 28
- U13 Curry Chevrolet vs U13 Casey's Water Well & Geothermal 9-3
- U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Mariposa 6-1 W
- U15 The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs Millbrook 3-2 L

March 1
- U9 Sharp Electric vs Woodville 6-1 L
- U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Muskies 4-0 W
- U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Mariposa 6-2 W
- U13 Casey's Water Well & Geothermal vs Kawartha 2-1 W
- U15 Haliburton Timber Mart vs Millbrook 6-5 L

March 2
- U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Kawartha 2-2 T
- U11 Carquest Minden vs Millbrook 1-1 T
- U9 Sharp Electric vs Muskies 7-1 L
- U13 Casey's Water Well & Geothermal vs Kawartha 3-2 L

STARS of the WEEK

JAXON DEMERCHANT

Jaxon is a great asset to the team being a transition player. He was moved to a forward position and has become a solid linemate and great forward.

JACKSON SPERRINO

Jackson is one of our second-year players. He is taking a leadership role and is leading the team with goals.

KORA REID

Kora has three points in the last four games. She has picked her game up when it is needed and is one of the hardest working players on the team.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire.

The Huskies

Nathan Poole sits in quiet reflection in the dressing room pre-game during a 10-2 win over the North York Rangers Feb. 26.. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Huskies lay it all on line for playoffs

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton County Huskies will square off against the St. Michael's Buzzers when the first round of the OJHL playoffs begin March 8 in Minden.

The third place Huskies drew the sixth place Buzzers in the opening East Conference seven-game showdown.

The blue and white have home ice advantage on the back of their 40 wins, 15 losses, and one overtime loss, good for 81 points. The St. Mike's squad were 30-20-2-4 on the season for 66 points, coming into the post-season on an eight-game win streak.

Sitting some of their top players, the Huskies dropped weekend games, 5-4 to the Trenton Golden Hawks Feb. 28 and 5-2 to the Toronto Patriots March 1. With a full roster, they easily bested the North York Rangers 10-2 on Feb. 26.

The Huskies have won three of four games against St. Mike's this season. They dropped the first one, 5-2, Sept. 20 but won 3-1 Oct. 26, 4-2 Nov. 9 and 4-1 Dec. 6.

Coach Ryan Ramsay said, "I think we're pretty confident. We really like our group.

"They're a good team. They added a couple of forwards and a defenceman at the trade deadline. Should be a really good series."

The coach was happy with the depth displayed against first place Trenton last weekend. They sat a lot of their best players and iced affiliate skaters. "For those guys to come in, and do pretty well right off the hop against Trenton, they did well. The same thing the next night against the Patriots. They (Toronto) needed to win, so they dressed all their team." While the Huskies did not get the wins, Ramsay liked the effort of the players.

The Huskies had a light practice March 3, with a focus on systems this week. The coaching staff has been watching game videos of the four games against St. Mike's this season, and the Buzzers last six or seven games.

"Just tendencies and match-ups. We watched a lot of videos with the players and the team, individual meetings," the coach said.

They've been watching the opponents' specialty teams and goaltenders. "Maybe he's got a weak spot, or something that we can pick up on and try to exploit."

Ramsay said having home ice advantage is key.

"It's hard to come in and play in Minden…it's a loud crowd and a great atmosphere to watch a game. It's definitely important for our boys. We have a really good fan base. We travel well to Toronto and other places."

Puck drop March 8 is 4 p.m. at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

First round playoff schedule:

Home Saturday, March 8 – 4 p.m.
Away Sunday, March 9 – 2 p.m.
Home Tuesday, March 11 – 7 p.m.
Away Thursday, March 13 – 7 p.m.
Home Saturday, March 15 – 4 p.m.
Away Sunday, March 16 – 2 p.m.
Home Tuesday, March 18 – 7 p.m.

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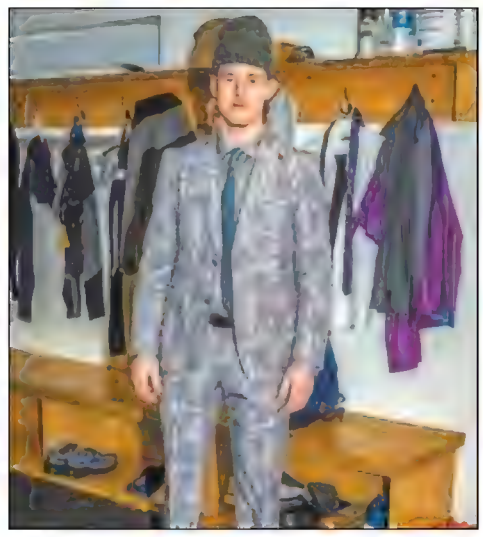
The Huskies



Highlander photographer Justin Belanger spent some time behind the scenes with the Haliburton County Huskies Feb. 26. Belanger began his day as the blue and white appeared in suits in the early afternoon and stayed with them as they prepared for their afternoon clash with the North York Rangers. The Huskies put the Rangers to the sword by a score of 10-2.

Top left: Assistant coach and general manager, Jordan Bailey, instructs the defence on the next play as head coach Ryan Ramsay makes his way over. Top right: Cole Brooks, Kaiden Thatcher and Kieran Litterick speed through the training ladder. Above left: Noah Lodoen looking sharp as he arrives at the clubhouse. Above: Co-captain Ty Petrou rocking the paisley. Far left: Volunteer Brad 'Parksey' Park shortens a stick before the game. Left: Keepy-uppy soccer. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

What's on

Loop Troupe-ing to the stage in Wilberforce

By Mike Baker

A month out from the Wilberforce Loop Troupe's first live production of the year and core member, Janice Dahms, is promising an old-fashioned whodunnit for the group's long-awaited return to the stage.

Relaunched in 2024 after years of COVID-19 enforced purgatory, the Loop Troupe springs back to life April 5 with its new show *Riches and Ransom*. Dahms, the director, said the comedy will feature 22 performers from Haliburton County.

"It's going to be a super fun evening – immerse yourself in the drama, deception, and dilemmas while dining with the residents of Old Oaks Retirement Home as they celebrate the home's 50th anniversary," Dahms said. The show will be held at Lloyd Watson Community Centre.

The story centres on the kidnapping of Miss Purscilla Bing.

Not content with simply entertaining the public, Dahms said attendees will be fed, too. A ticket includes a roast beef dinner, served by the Wilberforce Legion ladies' auxiliary.

Proceeds will support acoustic upgrades at the Wilberforce facility, which Dahms said are "much needed." The organization won a $5,000 grant through the MacDougall Community Contest last summer, with money earmarked for soundproofing baffles and improved audio equipment.

The troupers formed a sub-committee to investigate how to best solve the sound issues but found the type of system required too expensive. Money raised through the dinner theatre will help bridge the gap, Dahms said.

Upgrading the facility will allow the group to take their performances to the next level, she added.

"Everyone who uses the community centre agrees that the acoustics are terrible. Investing in a good sound system will make the building much more functional, and events more enjoyable to attend," Dahms said.

The equipment will also be available for other public and private events, such as weddings, funerals, graduations, parties and special functions.

Following the success of its *Skit-Oodles* production last May, Dahms said the group is looking to build on the momentum, organizing a raft of events and performances this year. They're planning a variety show in Wilberforce May 3; will perform *Riches and Ransom* at the Apsley Senior's Club June 14; and will participate in the 'Geocaching Capital of Canada's' geo-event 'Pirate Booty' this summer.

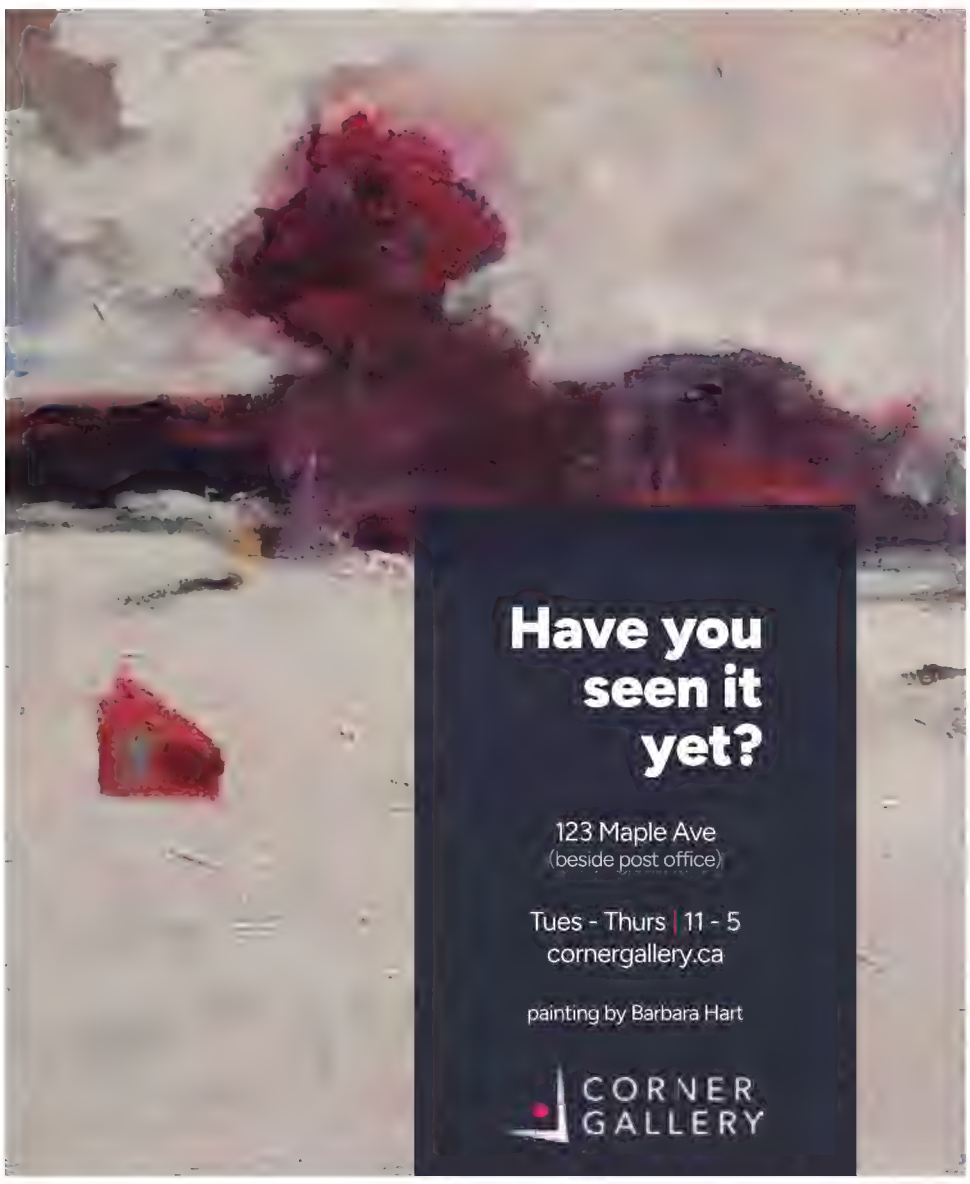
The group is also planning a production at the Wilberforce Agricultural Fair in August, will perform at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost's annual corn roast Aug. 15, and hope to produce another full-length live show in November.

Dahms said there's a lot of buzz over the troupe's resurgence.

"We've created a Loop Troupe family within the community. Getting together for rehearsals is always a hoot. The community seems to appreciate our efforts and certainly supports our initiatives," Dahms said. "We are always being asked when the next event will be – people are talking and interacting, bringing a vibrancy to town."

Wilberforce Loop Troupers Gary Mount, playing Holden McGroin, and Nancy Duff, playing Rose Bud in the upcoming *Riches and Ransom* show. *Submitted.*

Tickets for next month's show are limited, available for $35 at Agnew's General Store. To keep up with the group, visit facebook.com/Loop-Troupe.



What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m in the clubroom. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo hopefully returning in March.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m, tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!
The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Thursdays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. March 10, 17, 24 and 31. Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions at 2 p.m. March 12, 19, and 26. Cost is $4 per player.

Cornhole at 7 p.m. March 6, 13, 20 and 27. Cost is $5 per player.

HHHS social recreation March 13 and 27 at 10 a.m.

Fish n' Chips Fridays March 7 and 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per person.

Wings and jam session March 14 and 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.

Seniors 55+ lunch March 14 and 28 and noon. Cost is $17 per person

Meat draw March 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 3 p.m.

LA Breakfast March 9 from 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is $10 per person.
Call the legion for more information at 705-448-2221.

EVENTS

Arts Council Haliburton Highlands is welcoming submissions of stories for their joint project with CanoeFM: Story Circle. Appropriate-for-broadcast stories of less than 1,500 words will be considered. Submit ideas for review to storycircle22@gmail.com.

March 6, 1 p.m. Visit the Minden Hills Cultural Centre for a screening of the documentary Mighty Jerome, telling the story of Canadian sprinter Harry Jerome who represented his country at the 1960 Olympics before mounting an extraordinary comeback after a devastating leg injury in 1962. All ages are welcome.

March 6, 3 to 7 p.m. Job and volunteer fair at the Haliburton Legion, hosted by Fleming Crew. Explore career options, transition to a new field, re-enter the workforce, or gain experience and meet new people as a volunteer. Employment services such as job searching and resume writing also available.

March 7, 1 to 2 p.m. Join us at Minden Bible College, 177 Bobcaygeon Rd., for the 2025 Women's World Day of Prayer. Light refreshments to follow. The women of the Cook Islands have prepared a great service through music, prayers, scripture and stories. All are welcome. An offering will be received. For more information email mindenbiblechurch8@gmail.com.

March 8, 11 a.m. Visit the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for a fun-filled book party celebrating If You Give a Moose a Muffin! Enjoy a special storytime, fun crafts and muffins. Registration is required, do so by calling 705-457-2241 or visiting haliburtononlibrary.ca. Event also taking place March 15 at the Minden location.

March 11, all day. Ever wondered what your stuffed animal does when you're not around? Drop off your favourite stuffie for a special library sleepover adventure during branch hours in Dysart. Also taking place March 12 at the Minden location, and March 14 at Stanhope.

March 11, 7 p.m. Environment Haliburton! is hosting a virtual enviro-cafe featuring Basil Conlin of Haliburton Micromeadows. Learn all about rewilding, its benefits, and how we can make our yards more eco-friendly. Register in advance at environmenthaliburton.org. For more information, contact Susan Hay at 705-457-9239.

March 12, 7 p.m. The latest Speaker Series feature at the Haliburton Fish Hatchery will showcase Tammy Rea and Midori Nagai as they present 'Vintage Video - Haliburton stories from in front and behind the camera'. Enjoy an evening of looking back at the County's unique and colourful people and events. Tickets are $15.

NOTICE

NOTICE

2025 SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS

Under the Highway Traffic Act and County By-Law #2216, the County of Haliburton enforces reduced load restrictions on trucks to protect the County roadways during spring thaw, when road damage is most likely to occur.

Restriction on permits issued under the Highway Traffic Act and County By-Law #2216:

As outlined in the Highway Traffic Act and County of Haliburton By-Law #2216, reduced loading may be in effect in the County of Haliburton as early as 12:01 a.m. on March 1, 2025.

The actual date of reduced load limit enforcement will be in effect when and where signs are posted. All annual and project permits for moving of heavy vehicle loads, objects or structures, in excess of limits set out in the Act and the By-Law, unless otherwise specified, are not valid on any County Roads during the Reduced Loads Period.

Reduced load limits will be in effect where and when signs are posted.

WHEN SIGNS ARE POSTED, THE FOLLOWING ROADS WILL HAVE A REDUCED LOAD LIMIT FOR THEIR ENTIRE LENGTH:

County Roads 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 39, 48, 507 & 648-with the exception from CR 10 west to HWY 118.

On and after **March 1st**, check the County of Haliburton website www.haliburtoncounty.ca under "Notices" to see when reduced load limits are in effect and when they are lifted.

HELP WANTED

The Municipality of Highlands East
Is Currently Seeking A

Temporary, General Equipment Operator
(Temporary to Cover Medical Leave)
Public Works Department

Current Rate of Pay per CUPE Local 4416 Collective Agreement:
$29.03/hour

40 Hours per week, Monday – Friday
Overtime required some evenings and weekends subject to weather events
Position to commence as soon as possible and duration to be determined.

A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications clearly marked "Application – Temporary, General Equipment Operator" may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Monday, March 17th, 2025, via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer.

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE – Rainbows for Stocking 8" fish available April 1st, contact halihhoa@gmail.com Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, 6712 Gelert Rd, Haliburton

SERVICES

HELP WANTED

Township of Algonquin Highlands
Parks, Recreation and Trails Department

We are currently accepting resumes for the following seasonal position:

Stewardship Youth Ranger Team Lead

For the complete job description, please visit our website at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Please submit your resume and cover letter to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

HELP WANTED

DYSART ET AL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER
Full Time Employment

Salary between $99,405 - $116,290

The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking an energetic individual to join our Public Works team in the role of our Environmental Manager.

The Environmental Manager will have expertise in environmental management and be able to provide sound recommendations for the municipality regarding programs, initiatives, best practices and policy in areas including waste management, energy conservation and environmental education.

A detailed job description can be found on our careers page:
www.dysartetal.ca/en/municipal-government/careers

Interested persons can apply by submitting a resume to Human Resources Manager, Sonja Marx by email smarx@dysartetal.ca no later than 12:30pm Friday March 14, 2025.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton is currently recruiting for the following seasonal roles:

Three (3) Seasonal 1 Operator/Labourer(s)
DZ licence and experience with road maintenance and repair required. Hourly rate is $27.47. Unionized CUPE position.

Two (2) Flagperson/ Labourer(s)
G licence and experience in manual labour positions required. Hourly rate is $20.56. Unionized CUPE position.

One (1) Engineering (Seasonal) Student
G licence and current enrolment in an engineering program required. Hourly rate is $25.47. Unionized CUPE position.

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Haliburton County Public Library is currently recruiting for a Communications Coordinator
This part-time position (28 hours per week) develops and implements strategies to increase the community's engagement with library services and provides admin assistance. Hourly wage range is $32.29 - $37.77.

Applications
Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **March 10, 2025**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

HELP WANTED

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NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY

Heat-Line, a growing Canadian company located in Algonquin Highlands has new employment opportunities within the manufacturing team.

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This position may require standing for long periods and heavy lifting. This is a full-time opportunity, applicants are asked to send their resume to **tamara@heatline.com** or to, 1095 Green Lake Road, Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M1S0. (705) 754-4545

Only those selected for interviews will be contacted.

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Highlander classifieds

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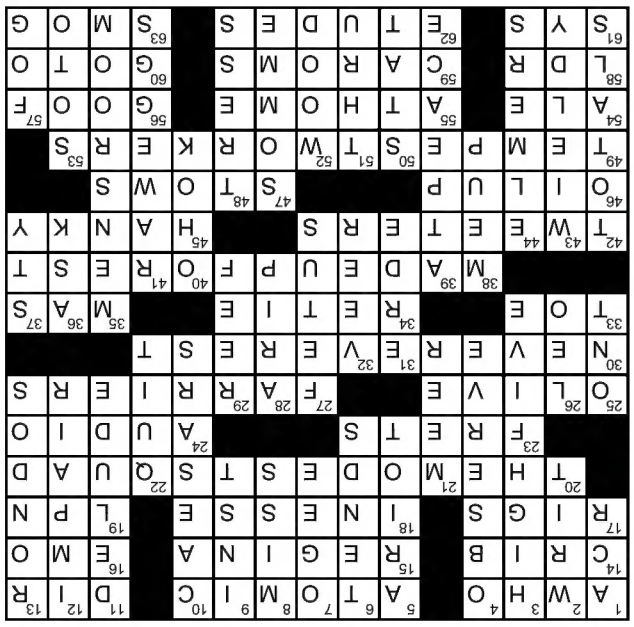
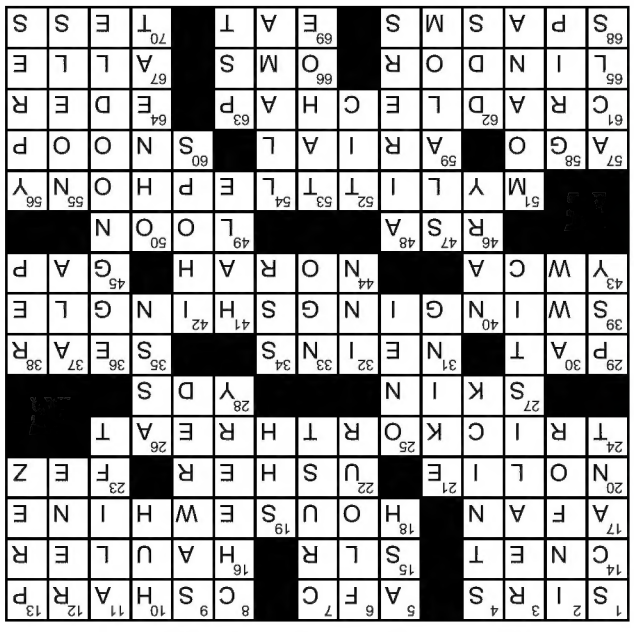


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



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8	5	4	1	2	6	3	7	9
6	3	1	5	7	9	4	2	8

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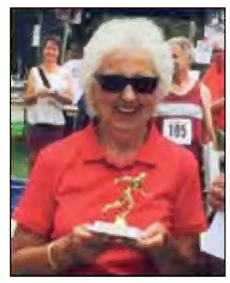
HOUSE FOR RENT– 2 BEDROOM WATERFRONT HOUSE for rent. 15 minute drive to Haliburton or Tory Hill. Nice lot, level parking for 2 cars, dock. Personal & Professional references a must. $1,400. Per month. First and last required. Call or text to 289-888-2719.

OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of

Evelyn Beryl Morrison

(nee Pearce)

Passed away Sunday, February 23, 2025 at Lakeridge Health Oshawa at the age of 93 with her children by her side.

She is predeceased by her husband,Grant Morrison and survived by sister Lois and brothers Doug and Gerald. She leaves her daughter; Roxanne and husband Earl; her son Robert and wife Mary Jo; her daughter Shelley and husband Al. Lovingly remembered by her 7 grandchildren Marielle (Rob), Karen (Chris); Claire (Andrew), Caitlin (Richard), Cole (Stephanie); Janelle (Joe), Brianne (Erol). GG will be missed by her 11 great grandchildren: Grant, Trent, Andrew, Gavin, Nolan, Alec, Cian, Kensey, Addison, Leo and Sophie.

Born in Coboconk July 2, 1931, mom moved to Oshawa to live with her aunt and uncle at age 15. At 19 she was working as a switch board operator at Bell. As were the times, a group of young men awaited their young ladies at the steps of the office at end of the day. Perhaps to take them to dinner, a dance, or a movie. Even though she was to meet her own gentleman, it was on the steps of the office that a different, dashing young man caught her eye and she and Grant were married in 1950.

Mom loved to travel. In fact, as her grandchildren grew and travelled themselves, it was unusual for them to go somewhere Gran had not already visited. In fact, Gran was always on the go. Golfing, bowling, dancing, movie group, walking group, etc. Typical phone call: "Hi Gran, what are you doing today?" "Oh, how lovely to hear from you, but I'm just on my way out". And Gran was an adventurer. She was game for anything and accepted all invitations, regardless of how outrageous.

Every summer you would find mom walking Deep Bay Road in Moore Falls. She was known by many who drove by. "I saw your mom out walking this morning" was the usual opener to a conversation with a neighbour. She won her age category many times when competing in the Minden Highland Yard. Her commitment to physical well-being was modelled for her family. They had to be active just to keep up with Gran!

She was a special, special person. She was diagnosed with cancer in 2017. Through all her medical tribulations, she maintained a grace and dignity. And a surprisingly irreverent sense of humour. And Gran pushed back. Hard. She repeatedly defied the odds. She was a tenacious woman. A pragmatic woman. A kind, gentle woman; yet would accept no excuses for giving less than your all.

It's very sad and hard imagining a world where she's not there. We are diminished by her loss.

A Private Family Celebration will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Christ Church (Anglican) on Hillcroft Street, Oshawa or can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 or online.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT– Renovated, fully furnished 3-bed, 1-bath home with new stainless steel appliances, washer/dryer, propane furnace, and fiber internet hookup. Features a spacious deck, large yard, parking for 3 vehicles, and detached garage. Located near Hwy 118 & Hwy 7, with quick access to Haliburton, Sir Sam's, Eagle Lake public beach & Country Market. $2,500/mo + utilities. 12-month lease. Email: RentEagle@outlook.com

SELF-CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent - Industrial Park Road, Various Sizes, Call (705) 457-1224

WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

PROPERTY OWNERS - want to make some money? We are buying your birch, fir and pine. We pay, up to 50 cents per foot (Birch), up to 50 cents per lb (fir & pine). You process. Call John at 905-926-5538.

WANTED VEHICLE - loc[illegible]y a reliable veh[illegible] to get from point A to P[illegible]4 wo[illegible]e[illegible]bay cas[illegible] 686[illegible]

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NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Mondays - 7:00 PM at West Guilford Baptist church. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

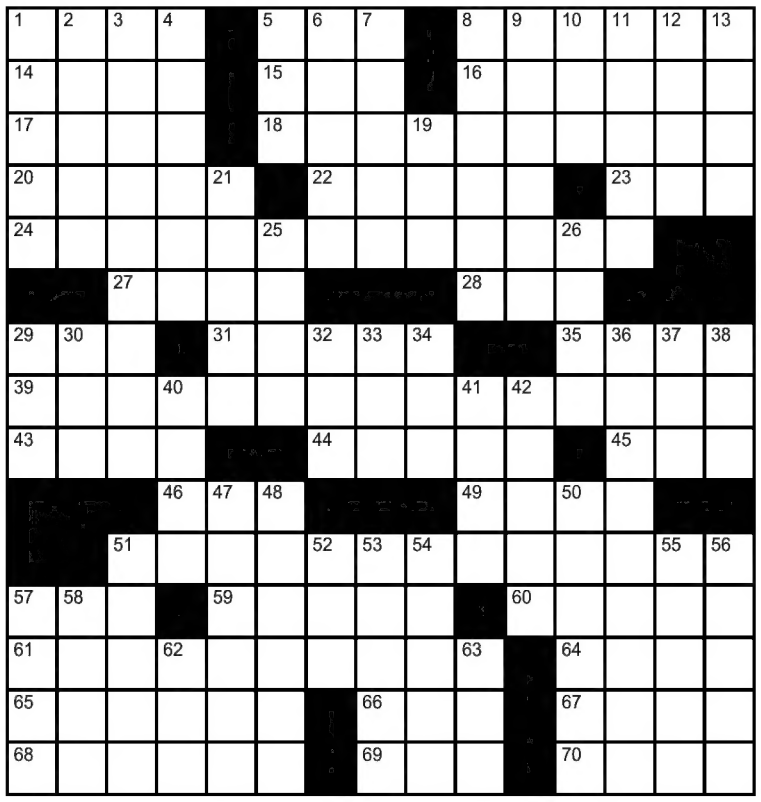
AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

Highlander puzzles

That Changes Everything

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

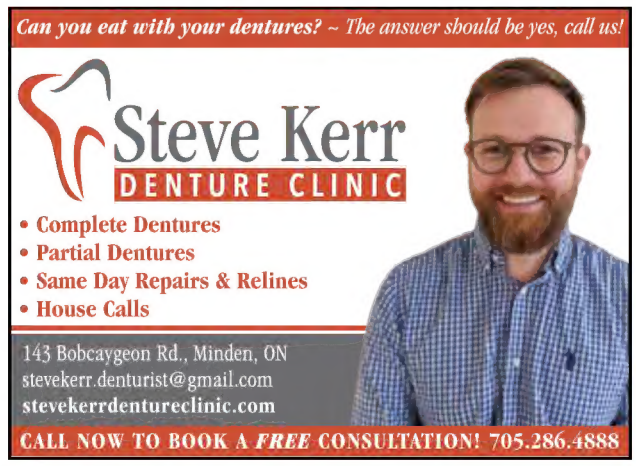


Across

1 Gendered letter opener
5 New York Jets' grp.
8 Black key to the left of D
14 Tech review website
15 Pro's camera, briefly
16 Semi driver
17 Not ___ of (unimpressed by)
18 Complaint about the roof, plumbing, basement, etc.?
20 "Scout's honour!"
22 "Walk this way" sayer, maybe
23 Shriner's headgear
24 Nasty options in a Halloween holler?
27 The outer you?
28 Three-ft. units
29 Baby burping action
31 Nietzsche's nopes
35 Char on the grill
39 Roofing piece in a hurricane?
43 Females' rec. ctr.
44 "Don't Know Why" singer Jones
45 "Mind the ___" (tube rider's warning)
46 Soweto's ctry.
49 Creature on a Canadian coin
51 Hasbro line with a knock-off toy?
57 Back then
59 Alternative to Times or Gothic
60 Poke about intrusively
61 Fella in a baby rocker?
64 River of Hesse
65 Truffle brand variety
66 Ashram utterances
67 Everything: Ger.
68 Charley horses, e.g.
69 Corrode, with "away"
70 Hardy girl

Down

1 Barely there
2 Sure to get, as trouble
3 True to life
4 "I knew in a moment it must be ___"
5 Blonde/silver hair dye
6 Kitchen cannister contents, maybe
7 Piece of the pie?
8 Upbeat
9 Got steamed, metaphorically
10 "Well, I'll be damned"
11 "Need ___?" ("Hop in")
12 Painter Magritte
13 White House honcho, for short
19 "Use your inside voice!"
21 ___ out an existence (scraping by)
25 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
26 Pt. of the P.G.A.
29 "Gangnam Style" rapper
30 "How adorbs!"
32 An Airbnb alternative
33 Oxfam or Save the Children: Abbr.
34 Ukr. until 1991, e.g.
36 Flat pasta strip
37 Done like, in cooking
38 Workout unit, for short
40 Not a single
41 In good health
42 Some stacks shacks
47 Zigzagging slopes race
48 Show showers
50 "Wow, keen!"
51 Disney title girl of Polynesia
52 Nervous twitch
53 Sierra Nevadas lake
54 Peruvian woolly mammal
55 Yuletides
56 WWI Belgian battleground
57 Sports injury areas, for short
58 Handshake characteristic
62 They drink for free in some bars: Abbr.
63 7% add-on, in most of Canada



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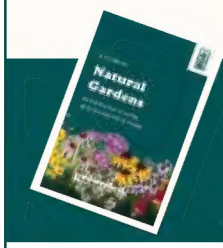
Natural gardens
and shorelines
designed and installed



For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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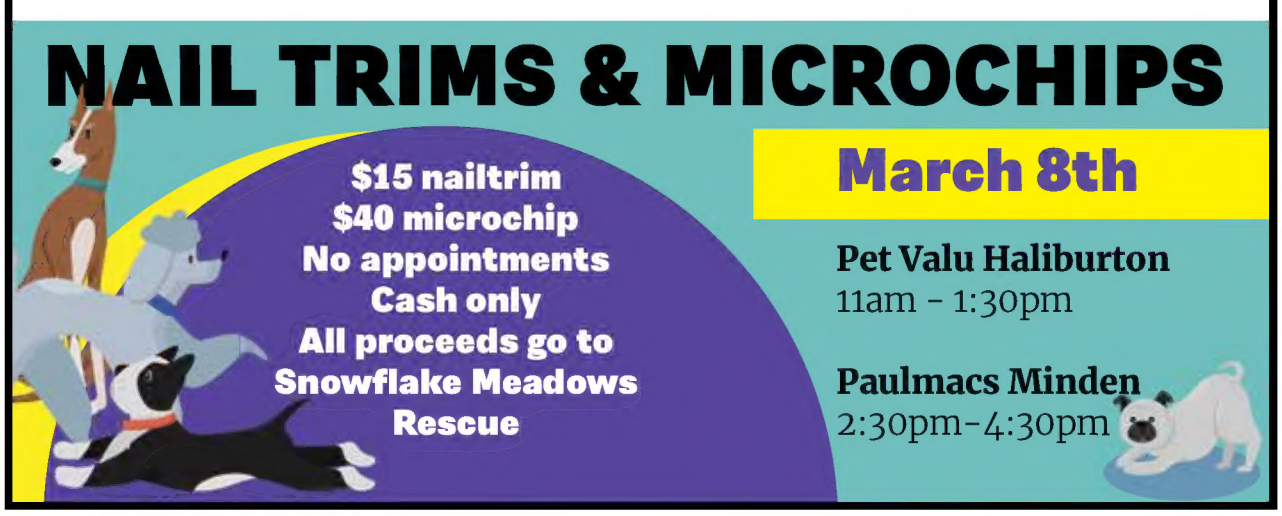

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